

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION ISLAMABAD, LAHORE, KARACHI, KABUL, NEW DELHI, CALCUTTA, BOMBAY, MADRAS, DACCA, TEHRAN, LONDON, PARIS, MOSCOW, INFO COLOMBO, KATHMANDU FROM SECSTATE MAR 14.

QUOTE SECSTATE 047092.

FOR US DEL

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, PK, MARR, MASS, IN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN' S PRESS BRIEFING MARCH 14, 1973:

QUOTE: MR. BRAY: I MIGHT BEGIN BY COMING BACK TO A SUBJECT TO WHICH WE HAD ONLY THE MOST TENTATIVE REFERENCE YESTERDAY AND RECALL FOR YOU THAT OUR POLICY ON MILITARY SALES TO INDIA AND PAKISTAN HAS BEEN UNDER REVIEW, AND AS MR. SISCO NOTED -- VERY ACTIVE REVIEW -- IN RECENT DAYS. SINCE THE IMPOSITION OF THE TOTAL EMBARGO IN DECEMBER 1971, WE HAVE NOW DECIDED TO REVERT TO A POLICY SIMILAR TO THAT WHICH WAS IN EFFECT FROM APRIL OF 1967 UNTIL THE TOTAL EMBARGO WAS IMPOSED IN 1971.

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UNDER THIS POLICY, THE UNITED STATES WILL ONLY SELL TO INDIA AND PAKISTAN NON- LETHAL EQUIPMENT, PLUS SPARE PARTS FOR

EQUIPMENT WHICH WE HAD PREVIOUSLY SUPPLIED TO THESE TWO COUNTRIES.

WE HAVE ALSO REVIEWED COMMITMENTS TO SELL ARMS -- COMMITMENTS WHICH WERE MADE BUT NOT CARRIED OUT PRIOR TO THE IMPOSITION OF THE EMBARGO -- AND IN ORDER TO WIPE THE SLATE CLEAR OF THESE COMMITMENTS, WE WILL PERMIT DELIVERY TO PAKISTAN OF 300 ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS. PAKISTAN ENTERED INTO A CONTRACT FOR THESE VEHICLES IN 1970 AND MADE A DOWN PAYMENT PRIOR TO IMPOSITION OF THE EMBARGO.

IN THIS SAME CONNECTION, PAKISTAN CAN NOW SHIP APPROXIMATELY 1.1 MILLION DOLLARS' WORTH OF SPARE PARTS, PARACHUTES, AND RECONDITIONED AIRCRAFT ENGINES WHICH WERE OWNED BY PAKISTAN AT THE TIME THE EMBARGO WAS PUT INTO EFFECT BUT WHOSE EXPORT WAS BLOCKED.

THESE LATTER ITEMS, OF COURSE, ARE ALL IN THE NON- LETHAL CATEGORY.

WE HAVE INFORMED THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN AND THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA OF THESE DECISIONS.

IN OUR JUDGMENT, THESE DECISIONS CAN NOT BE CONSTRUED TO HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE RATIO OF MILITARY POWER AS BETWEEN, INDIA AND PAKISTAN. IT CONTINUES TO BE OUR INTENTION -- AS IT HAS BEEN OUR INTENTION SINCE 1965 -- TO AVOID INVOLVEMENT IN ANYTHING WHICH MIGHT BE CONSIDERED AN ARMS RACE IN THE SUBCONTINENT.

Q. YOUR ANSWER ALSO BRINGS SOME OTHER ITEMS UNDER THE ONE-TIME EXCEPTION. DOES THIS MEAN THE REFERENCE TO 300 CARRIERS -- DOES IT MEAN THAT NO PLANES WILL DEAL WITH IT ANY MORE?

A. WELL, GOING BACK TO THE ONE- TIME EXCEPTION, MY RECOLLECTION IS THAT THERE WERE AIRCRAFT INVOLVED IN THAT BUT THAT THE APPLICATIONS FOR SALE -- THE CONTRACTS, WHATEVER IT IS-- HAVE SINCE LAPSED AND I DON' T BELIEVE HAVE BEEN UNCLASSIFIED

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RENEWED.

Q. MOST DECISIONS IN GOVERNMENT, HOPEFULLY, ARE BASED ON SOME REASONING. WHAT WERE THE REASONS FOR THIS SUDDEN, OR NOT SO SUDDEN, DECISION TO CHANGE OUR POLICY AND TO REVERT TO THE APRIL OF '67 TO DECEMBER OF '71 POSITION?

A. WELL, LET ME GO ON BACKGROUND TO SAY A BIT ABOUT THAT. THE RATION -- AS I SAID -- OF MILITARY FORCES IN THE SUB-

CONTINENT IS AS IT IS; AND THE NATURE OF SUPPLIERS, CONTRIBUTORS TO THAT RATIO, IS AS IT IS.

I THINK THE MOST IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTING ELEMENT TO THIS DECISION SIMPLY REFLECTS THE FACT THAT HISTORICALLY, AND OVER A LONG PERIOD OF TIME, THE UNITED STATES WAS A PRINCIPAL SUPPLIER TO THE PAKISTANI INVENTORY OF ARMS.

NOW, THAT INVENTORY IS PRETTY COMPLETELY DEPENDENT UPON THE CONTINUED PROVISION BY THE SUPPLIER OF SPARE PARTS, WITHOUT WHICH ANY INVENTORY IS SOMEWHAT LESS THAN USEFUL. AND IT SEEMED TO US THAT THE MOST USEFUL WAY TO REFLECT THAT FACT AND THE DECISION WHICH FLOWED FROM IT WAS AS I HAVE OUTLINED -- THIS REVERSION IN OUR POLICY -- A FEW MOMENTS AGO -- TO GO BACK TO WHAT WE WERE DOING, ON A VERY RESTRAINED BASIS, BETWEEN 1965 OR '67 AND 1971.

Q. HAS THE UNITED STATES RECEIVED A PROTEST FROM INDIA AND BANGLADESH IN REGARD TO THIS DECISION?

A. NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE, NO.

Q. CAN YOU TELL IF THE AMBASSADOR WAS CALLED IN TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY?

A. THE AMBASSADOR MET WITH OFFICIALS OF THE INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY TODAY, BUT WE HAVE NO REPORT OF HIS CONVERSATIONS.

Q. AND DO I UNDERSTAND NOW THAT THE APC IS OBVIOUSLY A LETHAL ITEM? IS THAT A ONE- TIME EXCEPTION?

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IN OTHER WORDS, DOES THAT FINISH ALL OUR COMMITMENTS TO PAKISTAN IN TERMS OF LETHAL- EQUIPMENT DELIVERIES?

A. THAT'S MY UNDERSTANDING, GEORGE -- LEAVING ASIDE THE QUESTION OF SPARE PARTS.

Q. CAN YOU SAY IF THERE'S ANY LINKAGE BETWEEN THIS DECISION AND THE DISCOVERY OF SOVIET- MADE ARMS IN THE IRAQI EMBASSY LAST MONTH?

A. I'M NOT AWARE OF ANY.

Q. THE RATIONALE FOR FURNISHING PAKISTAN WITH ARMS IN THE PAST I THINK USED TO BE TO KEEP A BALANCE IN THE SUBCONTINENT. I BELIEVE MR. SISCO, THE OTHER DAY, GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT PAKISTAN SHOULD NOT BE PUT IN THE POSITION OF BEING LAID PREY TO BECAUSE OF ITS WEAKNESS. IS THAT

WHAT MIGHT BE THE CHANGE IN REASONING ON THE ADMINISTRATION- S PART TODAY, THAT BECAUSE IT IS A SMALLER COUNTRY, IT NEEDS A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF DEFENSE EQUIPMENT?

A. ON BACKGROUND, I WOULDN' T QUARREL WITH THAT INTERPRETATION, AND YOU CAN PUT THAT IN THE CONTEXT OF THIS DISCUSSION OF THE RATIO AND THE ARMS RACE WHICH I ENTERED INTO ON THE RECORD EARLIER.

Q. AND THE OTHER QUESTION IS, WHAT ABOUT THE PROVISION OF ARMS THROUGH CHINA. ISN' T PAKISTAN NOW REALLY LOOKING TO CHINA FOR ITS SUPPLY? HOW DOES THE U. S. HAPPEN TO COME INTO IT?

A. I THINK THE ANSWER TO YOUR FIRST QUESTION IS YES, THE PEOPLE' S REPUBLIC IS AN ARMS SUPPLIER TO PAKISTAN, AS THE SOVIET UNION IS TO INDIA. WE HAPPEN TO COME INTO IT FOR THE REASON WHICH I OUTLINED EARLIER, AND THAT IS BY WAY OF THE SPARE PARTS PROBLEM, FUNDAMENTALLY.

Q. DID PAKISTAN ASK FOR THIS CHANGE? DID YOU INITIATE IT?

A. THE ANSWER TO YOUR FIRST QUESTION IS YES.

Q. HAVE THEY SUBMITTED ANY LIST FOR MORE ARMS?
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A. NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE, SPENCE, BUT I JUST DON' T KNOW.

Q. TWO QUESTIONS. ONE IS, ARE THESE NON- LETHAL ITEMS TO INCLUDE AMMUNITION AGAIN THIS TIME, AND, SECONDLY, HAVE YOU NOTICED ANY SERIOUS INCREASE RECENTLY IN SHIPMENT OF ARMS TO INDIA FROM OTHER COUNTRIES?

A. I DON' T HAVE SPECIFICS WITH RESPECT TO YOUR SECOND QUESTION. I THINK YOU ARE LEFT WITH THE REPORTED FACTS OVER THE LAST YEAR AND MORE WITH RESPECT TO THAT RELATIONSHIP. LET ME CHECK THE ANSWER TO YOUR FIRST QUESTION.

Q. I WANT TO ASK A QUESTION ABOUT MOVEMENT THROUGH THIRD PARTIES. IS THERE ANY PROPOSAL UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR SUPPLYING ANY ARMS TO PAKISTAN THROUGH THIRD COUNTRIES?

A. I SIMPLY HAVE NOT HEARD THAT DISCUSSED.

Q. WAS THIS A WHITE HOUSE DECISION?

A. YOU KNOW MY TRADITIONAL RELUCTANCE TO PARSE FOR YOU THE BUREAUCRATICS OF THINGS WE DO OR DON' T DO, BUT, I THINK YOU CAN TAKE IT THAT THIS WAS A THOROUGHLY CONSIDERED DECISION.

Q. WHAT EQUIPMENT WILL INDIA BE GETTING UNDER THIS DECISION?

A. WELL, INDIA AND PAKISTAN ARE NOW FREE, UNDER THIS POLICY, TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS FOR NON- LETHAL EQUIPMENT

OR SPARE PARTS FOR EQUIPMENT PREVIOUSLY SUPPLIED.

THERE WAS ONE OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT TO INDIA WHICH MAY NOW GO FORWARD, WHICH HAD TO DO WITH A COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM FOR A RADAR SYSTEM WHICH WE HAD SUPPLIED SOMETIME AGO TO THE INDIANS.

Q. YOU TALKED ABOUT THE COMMUNICATIONS OR RADAR EQUIPMENT. I'M NOT CLEAR ON THAT, TO INDIA. WHICH IS IT, BOTH?

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A. IT'S BOTH, I SAID, I THOUGHT. IT IS A COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM WHICH WOULD FORM PART OF THE RADAR SYSTEM WHICH WE HAD EARLIER PROVIDED.

Q. BUT WAS THAT DELIVERY COMPLETED?

A. OF THE RADARS, BUT NOT THE COMMUNICATIONS. I THOUGHT I NOTED FOR YOU THAT WE HAD A STANDING COMMITMENT WHICH HAD BEEN AFFECTED BY OUR POLICY DECISIONS IN THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS WHICH HAVE BLOCKED THE --

Q. YES, I UNDERSTAND THAT.

Q. DID THE INDIANS ASK FOR THAT COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT? YOU SAID, THEY MAY NOW GO AHEAD WITH IT, OR SOMETHING TO THAT EFFECT. DO YOU KNOW WHETHER THEY NOW WISH IT, OR WILL NOW KNOCK ON THE DOOR AND ASK FOR IT?

A. I'M FRANK TO SAY I DON'T KNOW.

Q. WHEN DID THAT LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO, PARTIAL LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO, BECOME EFFECTIVE, AND HAS ANY MOVEMENT YET TAKEN PLACE?

A. I'M VERY MUCH INCLINED TO DOUBT THAT ANY MOVEMENT HAS TAKEN PLACE, GIVEN THE FACT THAT THE DECISION HAS ONLY BEEN TAKEN IN QUITE RECENT DAYS. WE ARE DEALING WITH LARGE AND BULKY ITEMS, SOME OF WHICH MAY BE IN WAREHOUSES, BUT THEN YOU HAVE THE PROBLEM OF ARRANGING A SHIPPING CONTRACT, AND THE LIKE.

Q. BUT IT IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY?

A. BUT IT WOULD BE EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, SURE.

Q. LET ME TIE UP ONE MORE LOOSE END A MINUTE. DO WE HAVE ANY INDICATIONS FROM THE INDIANS THAT THEY WANT OR DESIRE OR WILL ASK FOR ANYTHING BEYOND THE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM?

A. I DON'T BELIEVE SO, AT THIS POINT.

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Q? WOULD THIS NEW POLICY APPLY EQUALLY TO BANGLADESH, WHICH APPARENTLY HAS SOME OLD PAKISTANI ARMS, AMERICAN-MADE?

A. I DON'T HAVE A RESPONSE FOR YOU AT THIS POINT ON THAT QUESTION, EXCEPT TO NOTE THAT I HAVE ADDRESSED THIS MATTER TODAY WITH RESPECT TO INDIA AND PAKISTAN. END QUOTE. ROGERS UNQUOTE ROGERS

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